REMARKS

Claims 20-37 have been pending and under consideration.

Claims 20-37 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Senay (US publication 20020038218).

The independent claims are 20, 26 and 32, which have been amended to require the limitations of dependent claims 21, 27, and 33, respectively. Dependent claims 21, 27 and 33 are cancelled. Thus, pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is requested. No new matter is added in this amendment.

The Office Action asserts that paragraph [0031] of Senay disclose the features of dependent claims 21, 27 and 33, now incorporated in the independent claims 20, 26 and 32. However, Senay FIG. 8, which is described in paragraph 31 fails to disclose expressly or inherently (by failing to necessarily require) the claimed "***displaying the personal connection map ... [having] <u>a tree structure</u>***." Further, Senay FIGS. 2 and 3, which illustrate one-to-many and many-to-many personal connections, respectively, fail to disclose expressly or inherently (by failing to necessarily require) the claimed "***<u>eliminating from the personal connection map a first link representing a weakest personal connection among N links</u>***." Thus, a prima facie case of anticipation based upon Senay cannot be established, because Senay's, paragraph 33, which discusses a people map provides a hierarchical graph ... each person who is selected to be in the map is represented by a rectangle whose size is proportional to the connectivity of the person and whose color is determined by the diversity of the person, fails to disclose expressly or inherently the claimed "displaying the personal connection map graphically based on the <u>retrieved </u>secondary metadata ~~retrieved~~<u>by displaying a tree structure based upon eliminating</u> <u>from the personal connection map a first link representing a weakest personal connection</u> <u>among N links, N being an integer greater than one, when a closed loop is formed by N nodes</u> <u>and the N links in the personal connection map, the tree structure including the N nodes and N-1</u> <u>links other than the first link</u>." In other words, Senay does not require a tree structure, and also does not require any weakest link elimination based upon a condition, namely when a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in a personal connection map, which provide a benefit of uncluttering the personal connection may (see page 14, lines 6-25 of the present application).

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is requested.

Dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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